



ARNPRIOR

**Minutes of the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting  
March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
6:30 PM  
Council Chambers – Town Hall**

**Committee and Staff Attendance**

**Committee Members Present:**

Chris Couper, Councillor  
Dan Lynch, Councillor  
Michael Bradley, Committee Member  
Leslie Anne Hook, Committee Member  
Jennifer McGuire, Committee Member  
Jo Ann Pecaskie, Committee Member  
Gaganpal Singh Bhasin, Committee Member

**Town Staff Present:**

Robin Paquette, CAO  
Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk  
Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture /  
Curator  
Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation  
Oliver Jacob, Client Services  
Coordinator

**1. Call to Order**

Robin Paquette, CAO, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed those present.

**a) Introduction of Members**

All committee members introduced themselves, shared their background and noted their vision for participation in the Town's Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee.

**b) Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Following a call for interest, the following motions to appoint committee presiding officers were entertained by the committee:

Resolution Number 001-24  
Moved by Leslie Anne Hook  
Seconded by Chris Couper

**That** the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee appoint Michael Bradley to serve as its Committee Chair for the 2022-2026 term of Council or until their successor is appointed.

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 002-24  
Moved by Dan Lynch  
Seconded by Chris Couper

**That** the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee appoint Chris Couper to serve as its Committee Vice Chair for the 2022-2026 term of Council or until their successor is appointed.

Resolution Carried

## 2. Roll Call

The roll was called, with all Members of the Committee being present.

## 3. Land Acknowledgment

Chair Michael Bradley asked everyone to take a moment to acknowledge and show respect for the Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land we operate on, by stating:

“I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we work and gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinaabe People. This Algonquin Nation have lived on this land for thousands of years, long before the arrival of the European settlers, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.”

## 4. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution Number 003-24  
Moved by Leslie Anne Hook  
Seconded by Jo Ann Pecaskie

**Be It Resolved That** the agenda for the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting dated Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 be adopted.

Resolution Carried

## 5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

## 6. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

None

## 7. Presentations/ Delegations

### a) Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Oliver Jacob, Client Services Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint Presentation and responded to questions.

Discussion ensued amongst Committee Members with the following being a summary of the comments noted:

- The names of committee members will be added to the CDAC webpage on the Town's website.
- Following each meeting, Committee members identified that "Committee Meeting Highlights" may be an effective tool shared through the Town's social media channels, similarly to the Council Highlights that are shared after Council Meetings. Committee members also noted that the first committee highlights post should also recognize the work of the former Inclusivity and Diversity Advisory Committee (IDAC). Staff agreed to review and report back to the committee on implementation.

**b) Inclusivity and Diversity Advisory Committee History and Background**

Oliver Jacob, Client Services Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint Presentation and responded to questions.

Discussion ensued amongst Committee Members with the following being a summary of the comments noted:

- A follow-up environmental scan may be a helpful tool to assess the changes in lived experience in the community since the 2022 public survey was completed.
- Additional data collection methods beyond an online survey should be investigated, to ensure that the sample is representative of the targeted demographics. It will be important to consider how to best obtain feedback from marginalized community members, so that we have an understanding of the lived experiences across our community.

**c) Cultural Planning at the Arnprior and District Museum**

Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture / Curator, provided a PowerPoint Presentation and responded to questions.

Discussion ensued amongst Committee Members with the following being a summary of the comments noted:

- It is important that cultural programming be developed by and with diverse community members ("nothing without us about us") and it will be necessary to include elders and knowledge keepers in program planning.
- Creating a safe space where everyone feels that they belong in our community is an essential component to cultural planning, and it will be helpful to find both formal and informal ways to engage with all community voices (i.e. attend community events, host meetings at neutral locations, etc.)
- The next CDAC meeting will take place at the Arnprior and District Museum (35 Madawaska Street, Arnprior, ON K7S 1R6) with future location direction to be made after that meeting.

## **8. Matters Tabled/ Deferred/ Unfinished Business**

None

## **9. Staff Reports**

None

## **10. New Business**

### **a) Roundtable Discussion**

Robin Paquette, CAO, shared that this item on the Agenda is an opportunity to share any questions, comments, thoughts and perspectives.

- A smudging ceremony would be a potential educational opportunity for the community in addition to ceremonies of cultural significance from other cultures.
  - Should a smudging activity be held, it should be offered as a public event that is open to all community members with an invitation to CDAC members and Town Council / Staff. It will be important to clearly articulate the purpose and role of smudging ceremonies to ensure that they are inclusive for all community members.
- Further discussion would be helpful around special events, festivals and non-Christian religious holidays and the implications of Town policies and by-laws (i.e. Proclamations Policy, Fireworks By-Law, etc.).
- Additional ideas were shared for events/activities and programs that could be implemented by the Recreation Department (ie. the sport Cricket).

## **11. Adjournment**

Resolution Number 004-24

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Gaganpal Singh Bhasin

**That** the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:24 PM.

Resolution Carried